

WHEN BUSBY'S WORLD FELL APART

THE fickle finger of fate did Luton's Viv Busby no good at all. Busby suffered the torment of a couple of months' trial with First Division Newcastle United—to try to prove himself worth a £50,000 transfer fee.

And the lad who had once formed a formidable Second Division goalscoring partnership with Malcolm Macdonald, began to impress in many ways. Busby, with Macdonald's assistance at St. James's Park, scored three goals in six matches for the Tyneside club . . . and looked set for a permanent move.

But then fate stepped in. Newcastle's world fell apart with that inglorious Cup exit at the hands of Hereford, manager Joe Harvey's dreams of a long run were dashed and Busby was told he would have to return to Luton.

Different

But Busby remains philosophical about his time at Newcastle and certainly doesn't regret the opportunity. "All in all, it was obviously disappointing, but despite the outcome, I still enjoyed it and, of course, it was a tremendous experience and useful for the future.

"And Newcastle boss Joe Harvey said he would keep an eye on me in the future so I have hopes that it might yet work out.

"I think it is true to say that once you have had a taste of the

First Division, you'd like to stay there. I found it totally different from the Second Division—the atmosphere, the pressures—it's all different.

"It's only understandable that you will miss it when you leave. When you've seen what it's like, you want to stay there.

"I was well-pleased with my performance while I was at St. James's. The pressure was on, but I settled quickly and it was great playing with Malcolm Macdonald again. He said he enjoyed it, too. I think we settled down quickly together. We hadn't played together for almost six months.

"All we both had to do was to flick the ball on and the other one was there—it was great and tremendously satisfying. We were continually looking for each other and the partnership prospered. It was a bit of a bombshell—especially after I thought I'd done well enough—when Joe said he didn't want me.

"The club said they didn't have the money—they were apparently hoping for a good Cup run to pay for me. But the Hereford fiasco finished all that.

"I came back to Luton determined to do well and prove Joe Harvey wrong. But, at first, it was difficult for people expected me to perform miracles and score loads of goals every week. But it doesn't always work out that

way—as I found out.

"The crowd at Luton gave me stick as soon as I came back. You hear them on the terraces saying 'That? First Division standard?' and 'No wonder they didn't want him'. It makes you feel a bit sick, to say the least. They don't give you a chance."

What does the future hold for Busby? "I think Luton can start building again after the transfer of some key players and I certainly hope that, as far as I am concerned, I can start finding the back of the net again.

Challenge

"I think Luton will be back and will challenge once again for a place in the First Division. You never know what the future holds, but my ambition at the moment is just to keep winning and scoring goals and help Luton get towards the top of the Second Division. Then, we'll take it from there."

If Luton do make the First Division within the next few years, that lad Busby will be waiting all season to get back to St. James's Park—and show Newcastle just what they missed. And that situation might not be so far from reality as some people think.

**VIV BUSBY . . . "First Division
so different"**

